



Employee News

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

First Training Funds Delivered to Muscatatuck SDC Employees

HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development:

1-888-WORKONE (967-5663)

www.IN.gov/dwd

Available to assist with job search concerns. Web site resources include "Career Planing and Training" and "Job Fair Listings."

Customer Self Service System for Job Seekers:

<https://cs3.dwd.state.in.us/regw/default.asp>

Free service links you to job opportunities across Indiana and neighboring states. Your information is cross-referenced with thousands of job openings. Operated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

America's Job Bank:

www.ajb.dni.us

Nation's largest pool of active job opportunities. Post your resume to employers across the country. Operated by the US Department of Labor and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Ivy Tech State College:

1-888-IVY-LINE (489-5463)

www.ivytec.in.us

Indiana's third largest public higher education system, with 23 campuses statewide.

Karen Kinder, Director of FSSA Division of Budget and Finance, delivered the first staff training funds to six Muscatatuck employees in early December. The special fund has been made available through FSSA to help employees who will be affected by the transition to community-based services. Any full time employee attending school or special training after August 1, 2001 is eligible to access these training funds. Here what the first six employees are doing with their checks:

- Danny Brown received \$425.00 for continuing education classes with Indiana Wesleyan University. He is taking classes required to maintain his teaching license. Danny works as a RT with one year of service.
- Deanna Kreutzjans received \$390.00 for classes with August Mack Environmental, Inc. in Indianapolis. These classes were for Wastewater Treatment Certification. Deanna, who has twenty-three years of service, works in the Water Treatment Plant.
- Rob Ross received \$905.00 for classes with Indiana State University, where he is working on a Degree in Human Resources and Development. Rob is an R.T.A. with thirteen years of service.



Karen Kinder delivers training checks to Mark Salyers, Deanna Kreutzjans, and Danny Brown.

- Darla Rousch received \$574.53 for classes at Ivy Tech in where she is working on a Degree in Office Administration. Darla is a thirteen-year employee working in housekeeping.
- Mark Salyers received \$390.00 for classes with August Mack Environmental, Inc. in Indianapolis. These classes were for Wastewater Treatment Certification. Mark works in the Water Treatment Plant and has twenty-seven years of service.

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the Southeast Regional Project Team will be:

February 1, 2002

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stone City Mall

Wildflower Room

3300 W. 16th St., Bedford, IN

Employee Resource Center

Each month this space will highlight community, government, and non-profit sponsored resources to assist employees with the transition.

- LPN classes will be held at Muscatatuck beginning in January. The classes will be held on the grounds and employee work schedules will be altered to adjust to the class times. The LPN program, conducted by Ivy Tech, will take 18 months. Employees planning to enroll in the LPN course will be required to take a test to assess their skills, unless they already have an undergraduate degree or are currently enrolled at Ivy Tech. For more information contact Michel Lesaux at 812-346-401 x1278.
- In 2002 the GED test will be revised for the first time in 14 years. The exam is being changed to come in-line with changing high school graduation standards. The new test will have fewer multiple-choice questions and more open-ended questions that focus on problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Gymnast Mary Lou Retton, Actor Michael J. Fox, and Wendy's founder Dave Thomas all have their GEDs. For more information Indiana's GED program call the Indiana Department of Education at (317) 232-0522.
- The Switzerland County Library will offer a free resume writing workshop on January 17 and 18 from 6:00-7:30pm. To register or for more information, call the library at 812-427-3363.
- Ivy Tech State College offers over 40 programs of study and over 80 specialties at 23 campuses across Indiana. However, Ivy Tech also teaches courses via the Internet. To learn more about Ivy Tech's Internet courses visit them on-line at www.ivytec.in.us. If you do not have Internet access, check out our Internet Access Resource Center in this issue.

FSSA awarded \$200,000 federal grant to help people with disabilities ***18 counties can apply for grants as part of this pilot program***

A new \$200,000 federal grant will help people with disabilities and their families get needed information and access to resources available in their communities, Family and Social Services Administration Secretary John Hamilton announced.

The grant will fund a family support pilot program in 18 southeastern Indiana counties. More than \$100,000 of this grant will be awarded to counties on a competitive basis. The goal is to help existing networks better serve families and to develop new networks that can serve as a blueprint for a statewide system.

"The support network funded by this grant will help families with loved ones transitioning from an institution to community setting by allowing them to find resources that suit their needs quickly and easily," said Hamilton.

The grant will also be used to increase access to available community resources, identify the needs of cultural minorities and develop training on available local resources. It will also help fund a telephone-based information and referral system now

under development. By dialing 2-1-1, Hoosiers will be able to access comprehensive information on human services organizations. The system, once in place, will be available statewide.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Training Funds Delivered

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- Shawn Williams received \$551.84 for classes at IU/PU Columbus where he is working on a MBA. Shawn, a ten year staff member, works as a Mental Health Administrator.

Currently there are twenty applications being processed for employees receiving training or attending fall classes. Training being taken by employees range from the classes listed above to on-line classes and self study at home.

INTERNET ACCESS RESOURCE CENTER

Many articles in this newsletter direct readers to the Internet sites of various organizations. We hope the sites listed will be helpful to readers as they gather information about the transition and the resources available in the community. Starting this month and continuing in future editions, we will list locations in southeastern Indiana where the Internet can be accessed for free.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Madison - Jefferson County Library

420 W. Main street
Madison, Indiana
812-265-2744

The Library offers free Internet access on 8 computers. Internet use is limited to 2 hours a day, half and hour at a time during busy periods.

JENNINGS COUNTY

Jennings County Library

2375 N. State Highway 3
North Vernon, Indiana
812-346-2091

The library offers free Internet access on 10 computers. There is a half an hour time limit if others are waiting.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Switzerland County Public Library

205 Ferry Street
Vevay, IN
812-423-3363

The library offers free Internet access on 5 computers.

RIPLEY COUNTY

Batesville Memorial Public Library

131 North Walnut Street
Batesville, IN
812-934-4706

The library offers free Internet access on 5 computers.

Osgood Public Library

136 West Ripley Street
Osgood, Indiana
812 - 689 - 4011

The library offers free Internet access on 8 computers.



DD Waiver Ombudsman Review

A review of the responsibilities and contact information of the DD Waiver Ombudsman

The statewide DD Waiver Ombudsman Program applies to individuals who have a developmental disability and who receive services under a Medicaid Waiver under the federal home and community based services program. According to the law, the ombudsman shall receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints and concerns that are made by or on behalf of an individual who is developmentally disabled and who receives services under a Medicaid Waiver.

At the conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, the ombudsman will report the findings of the investigation to the complainant. If an investigation is not

done the complainant will be notified of the decision not to investigate and the reasons for the decision.

Brian Reynolds has been appointed as the Indiana's first full-time DD Ombudsman. Brian works in the Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services (BAIHS) within the Family and Social Services Administration. If you have any complaints or concerns or if you would like more information, please contact him at **(317) 234-1181** or **1 (800) 622-4484**. Please share these phone numbers with the Individuals with Developmental Disabilities who are served under the Waiver Program or with others who may have complaints or concerns regarding this population.

Madison State Hospital Selected as Site for Regional Service Center

Secretary Hamilton Makes the Announcement on November 28, 2001

After much consideration, the Family and Social Services Administration has decided to locate the Regional Service Center in Madison. One regional administrator will oversee all state-operated services in the region. Most of the state-operated beds will be used to treat, stabilize and integrate individuals into the community, not serve as long-term residences.

The decision to locate the facility in Madison was made only after a thorough review of the all the relevant issues. Three of the most important issues are explained below.

Patient Care Issues

Locating all services in one location near a metropolitan market will increase FSSA's ability to develop a center of excellence with cutting-edge therapeutic models. FSSA will ensure that the units/facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities have therapeutic operations distinct from the mental illness operations (for example, the direct care staff will not alternate between assisting individuals with DD and MI). Providing these services on the Madison campus will enable FSSA to coordinate the use of many professionals with both groups. While direct caregivers would not alternate between the two groups served, other professionals - such as physicians, dentists and therapists - would. While FSSA does not know for certain what the need for state operated facilities will be 10-20 years from now, it does know that the needs are always changing and will be different from the current

needs. Operating a state facility on one campus will give FSSA greater flexibility to be responsive to the future's changing needs.

Fiscal Issues

Estimates indicate operating facilities in two separate counties - rather than integrated at one location - would cost approximately \$4-5 million more in annual operating expenses. This includes approximately \$2 million in operations and approximately \$2.4 million annually in federal "disproportionate share" funding that FSSA would not receive if all residents are not served on a hospital campus for individuals who are mentally ill. Construction and capital costs would be higher for two new facilities. Renovating existing Muscatatuck buildings would cost at least \$8-12 million. Additionally, there would be significant on-going maintenance costs, approximately \$1 million each biennium.

Community Issues

The changes ahead are significant and will impact the local community. FSSA is committed to working with employees to help them during the transition. Existing Muscatatuck employees will receive assistance with training and identifying new job opportunities. Additionally, they will be encouraged to apply for positions at Madison or with other agencies providing community-based services to consumers leaving state-operated facilities.

Providing the state-operated services in Madison will ensure quality patient care and use tax dollars responsibly. Individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities will gain the most as FSSA develops a center of excellence where they can find help and integrate back into their homes and communities.

Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH employees fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:
www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

Secretary, FSSA
402 W. Washington St.,
Room W461
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088
Attn: MSDC/MSH

or email:
OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-800-903-9822

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

Family and Employee News Now Available On-Line

Employee News and *Family News* will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition